

account in a month's time without being assessed financial penalties. As hard as it is to believe, the Federal Government actually forces banks to punish people for accessing their own savings too many times in a month. This bill also repeals a regulation that requires bank customers to receive a written monthly financial statement from their banks, regardless of whether the customer wants such a communication.

These regulations exceed Congress's constitutional powers and violate individual property and contract rights. Furthermore, these regulations insult Americans by treating them as children who are unable to manage their own affairs without Federal control. I urge my colleagues to show their respect for the Constitution and the American people by cosponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO VETERAN CONGRESSIONAL AIDE JUDITH BREWER

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my Legislative Director, Judith Brewer, for her 34 years of excellent service as a Congressional staff member and to wish her well upon her retirement. I also wish to thank her for the 26 years she served the citizens of northern New York, 14 of which were as a member of my staff.

After graduating from the University of Maine cum laude with a B.A. in political science, Judi began her career in 1973 when she joined Congressman Fred B. Rooney's staff as a Staff Assistant. Five years later, she joined the House Select Committee on Aging's Subcommittee on Retirement Income and Employment, where she served as a liaison between the subcommittee chairman, older Americans, and Federal agencies. Judi next served as Projects Assistant in Congressman Harold T. Johnson's office.

Judi began serving the people of northern New York in 1981 when she became a Legislative Assistant in my predecessor, Congressman David O'B. Martin's office. In that capacity, Judi developed significant expertise in policy areas of great importance to northern New York, including dairy, education, health care, and labor.

When I came to Congress in 1993, I was fortunate that Judi decided to continue her excellent service to the people of northern New York as a member of my staff. For the past 14 years, they, as well as I, have been the beneficiary of Judi's compassion, dedication, expertise, kindness, humor, and professionalism. Accordingly, I profoundly thank Judi and wish her the very best as she enters retirement.

HONORING KATHERINE CARNEY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Katherine Carney upon receiving the Commonwealth Academy's Recognition for Educators, CARE, Award.

The CARE award honors outstanding educators from across the United States for their unrelenting work to enhance the lives of their students. Kathe, a teacher at Neabsco Elementary School, is honored for her work in promoting diverse learners in the spirit of the "No Child Left Behind Act."

Although she began her career teaching English literature, Mrs. Carney's passion and gift lay with teaching the neediest students. In 1994, at PACE West, a self-contained special education school, she taught students with serious emotional and behavioral needs. In addition to the 8–13 subjects she taught a day, she took on roles as a mentor, advisory committee member, and the school's administrator of various special education testing regimens. Devoted to reading, Mrs. Carney noted a void of books at her school, and was shocked to find no library at PACE West. She took it upon herself to initiate, organize, and develop the PACE West library, which housed 2,000 volumes upon her departure.

After 7 years at PACE, Mrs. Carney joined the staff at Swans Creek Elementary School. She taught a self-contained class for students in the 2nd–5th grade with learning disabilities, speech, language and vision impairments, and other health challenges. Again, Mrs. Carney mentored her fellow teachers and established the school's Learning Disabilities Program.

In 2003, Mrs. Carney joined the faculty at Neabsco Elementary School, teaching 4th and 5th graders who are emotionally disturbed. The administration at Neabsco quickly realized her abilities and tasked her to be the case manager of the Instructional Consultant Team and a member of the Child Study Team. Mrs. Carney has received numerous commendations at Neabsco, including being named 2007 Neabsco Teacher of the Year and was nominated to be 2007 Dale City Teacher of the Year.

Over her distinguished career, Mrs. Carney has demonstrated great resolve, patience, and a unique ability to make a positive difference in the lives of her students. Working with students with these needs is trying; however, every day is a new opportunity for Mrs. Carney and her students. No incident or past history is ever carried back into the classroom; this includes the time where an inadvertent swing of a baseball bat left her in a full leg cast for months.

It is dark when Mrs. Carney arrives at school and dark when she leaves. Her devotion to her students is immeasurable. Whether it is tutoring for the science fair on a Saturday, meeting with a concerned parent late at night, or counseling former students on life altering decisions, Mrs. Carney always makes herself available to those in need. Through her tender approach and no-nonsense outlook, Mrs. Carney has made a difference in the lives of countless youths in Prince William County.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mrs. Carney for being recognized as one of the 2007 CARE awardees. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Kathe on all her accomplishments and in wishing her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Ghana. On March 6, 1957, Ghana became the first country in Africa south of the Sahara to gain independence from colonial rule. The theme for the anniversary is: Championing African Excellence. There are three main objectives for the jubilee celebrations, which are: celebrate and commemorate Ghana's landmark achievement as the first country in Black Africa to attain independence from colonial rule; reflect on the evolution, development, achievements and drawbacks of the country over the past 50 years; and to look forward to the future vision of excellence in all fields of endeavor in the next 50 years towards the centennial anniversary of the nation.

Year-long activities marking the Golden Jubilee have been scheduled, beginning in January 2007 and ending in December 2007, with monthly themes including: Reflection, African Unity, and Heroes of Ghana. April's theme is "Our Nation, Our People," and I would like to enter into the RECORD this article, regarding another "first" for Ghana, reported by BBC News International on April 24, 2007, entitled "La Scala Brings Beethoven to Ghana." It details the recent visit to Ghana by Milan's La Scala orchestra and chorus and speaks about the hopes of expanding the appreciation of classical music to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Republic of Ghana continues to experience economic growth and the government continues to work on improving the energy generating capacity of the country. Recently an Educational Reform Program has been implemented, which primary vision is to align education to national aspirations to develop disciplined, socially conscious and well-rounded Ghanaians who can hold their own as global citizens anywhere. All these efforts promise that Ghana will reach its goal of excellence in all fields as they look towards the centennial anniversary. I urge fellow members to continue to support Ghana's independence by working towards victory over poverty, disease, gender in equality, and lack of education.

LA SCALA BRINGS BEETHOVEN TO GHANA

(By David Willey)

Italy's famous La Scala orchestra has played in sub-Saharan Africa for the first time.

The venue: Accra's 1,400 seat ultra-modern National Theatre.

The occasion: celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Ghana's independence.

The cast: Daniel Barenboim and 160 members of the orchestra and chorus of Milan's La Scala.

The programme: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the Choral, whose Ode to Joy has become the official anthem of the European Union.

ELECTRIC

The evening began in an unusual way, with the beating of a traditional tribal drum, a traditional Ghanaian welcome.

It ended with a standing ovation for the prestigious orchestra and their equally famous conductor.